



SENATE TAXATION

EXHIBIT NO. 4

DATE 1-9-07

BILL NO. SB-139

January 8, 2007

TO: Members of the Senate Taxation Committee

FROM: Claudia Clifford, Associate Director – Advocacy AARP Montana

RE: Support of SB 139 Property Tax Rebates

Many of our members, particularly those on fixed incomes, voice their concern about property taxes. In response, I am here today to urge your support of SB 139 which will rebate \$400 to residential property tax payers. We support this bill because at this time the state can afford to give back some revenue to Montanans as a bonus of good times. The revenue stream of our state will not always be so generous and the demand for government services is likely to increase with our rapidly growing senior population. One of our themes for this session is to prepare for the future – Census data shows that by 2030 Montana's population over age 65 will grow 112% while the total population will grow 33%. This dramatic change in demographics will re-define the services and care we provide to our elders. The state needs to be prepared for the costs associated by not shorting itself of revenue in the future. But, like any business or family that has had a good year a bonus of this sort is welcome.

*AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that helps people 50+ have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole. We have staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.*